

Appin No. 10/760,261
Amdt. Dated April 26, 2006
Response to Office Action of March 27, 2006

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REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In response to the Examiner's final Office Action of March 27, 2006 the Applicant respectfully submits the accompanying Amendment to the claims and the below Remarks.

Regarding Amendment

In the Amendment:

independent claim 1 is further amended to specify that the locking features are configured to allow disengagement only upon cooperation with an unlocking tool. Support for this amendment can be found, for example, at page 28, lines 19-26 of the present specification;

independent claim 5 is similarly further amended to specify that the complementary protrusions and indentations are configured to allow disengagement only upon cooperation with an unlocking tool; and

dependent claims 2-4 are unchanged.

It is respectfully submitted that the above amendments do not add new matter to, nor any new issues to the prosecution of, the present application.

Regarding 35 USC 103(a) Rejections

It is respectfully submitted that the subject matter of further amended independent claims 1 and 5, and dependent claims 2-4, is not taught or suggested by Yuen in view of Kyser et al., for at least the following reasons.

In the present invention, the retaining protrusion 168 and the post-plunge recess 169 of the base and cover moldings 170 and 162 of the ink refill cartridge 160 can only be disengaged by using an unlocking tool, which is provided to an ink replenishment supplier. In this way, the refill cartridge is locked to a user subsequent to the dispensing of the refill ink thereby eliminating replenishment with inferior ink (see page 28, lines 19-26 of the present specification). Amended independent claims 1 and 5 recite these features of the present invention.

Neither Yuen nor Kyser teach or suggest arranging the "locking features" to only be disengaged by cooperation with an unlocking tool, because Yuen merely discloses bringing the housing members out of engagement so that the refilled ink cartridge can be removed (see col. 3, lines 11-37 and col. 7, line 53-col. 8, line 60 of Yuen), and Kyser merely discloses disengaging the cartridge from the receptacle once the ink within the cartridge has been depleted so that a new cartridge may be inserted (see col. 3, line 40-col. 4, line 25 of Kyser). Neither Yuen nor Kyser requiring an unlocking tool to allow the disengagement to take place.

Thus, the subject matter of amended independent claims 1 and 5, and dependent claims 2-4, is not taught or suggested by Yuen and Kyser, either taken alone or in combination.

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It is respectfully submitted that the Examiner's rejections have been traversed. Accordingly, it is submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance and reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested.

Very respectfully,
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